

D. R.

**MAX SANDLIN**

1ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GROUND TRANSPORTATION

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS,  
SECURITIES AND GOVERNMENT  
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

**DEMOCRATIC WHIP-AT-LARGE**

CHAIRMAN  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS TASK FORCE  
ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

214 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3035  
FAX: (202) 225-5886

1300 E. PINECREST DRIVE, SUITE 30  
MARSHALL, TX 75670  
(903) 938-8386  
FAX: (903) 935-5772

P.O. Box 248  
NEW BOSTON, TX 75670  
(903) 628-5594  
FAX: (903) 628-3155

P.O. Box 538  
SULPHUR SPRINGS, TX 75482  
(903) 885-8682  
FAX: (903) 885-2976

April 28, 2000

Melinda K. Plaisier  
Associate Commissioner for Legislative Affairs  
Food and Drug Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Parklawn Building  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 15-55  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Plaisier:

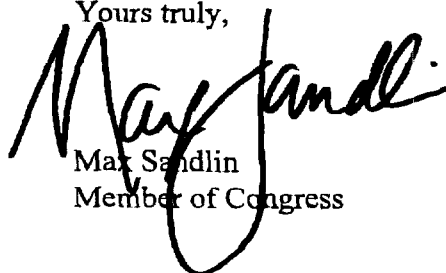
I recently contacted you regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) handling of dietary supplements containing ephedra. I would again like to request your assistance on another aspect of the review that is currently under way.

While I was pleased with the recent release of all new adverse effect reports (AERs), the length of the FDA-mandated comment period concerns me. It is my understanding that the FDA has given the industry 45 days to comment on the new AERs. I also have been informed that the FDA spent nearly two years compiling the newly-released information. While I am pleased that the FDA opened its analysis to industry input, I believe the comment period is simply too short. Therefore, I urge the FDA to extend the comment period from 45 to 180 days. In this way, the industry will be able to perform a more comprehensive evaluation of the new data.

I thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can be of any assistance to you on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at (202) 225-3035.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,

  
Max Sandlin  
Member of Congress

*Follow up to*

*No. 00-2454  
00N-1200*

*EXT5*